

Chile: Violations of Human Rights

Reports of gross violations of human rights in Chile, which had nearly ceased earlier this year, are again on the rise. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] the Pinochet government is reverting to the practices that have jeopardized its international standing since the 1973 coup.

This backsliding comes at a particularly bad time for Chile, since apparent improvement in the human rights situation was helping improve its image abroad. Critics will now have additional ammunition for their attacks on the Chilean regime and their appeals to boycott it.

Chile's National Intelligence Directorate is apparently behind the recent increase in torture, illegal detentions, and unexplained "disappearances." The Directorate's chief, Colonel Manuel Contreras, is a close confidant of Pinochet, who acclaimed the organization in a recent press interview for its "decisive role" in bringing extremism under control. Contreras answers directly to the President, and it is unlikely that he would act without the knowledge and approval of his superior.



Colonel Manuel Contreras

[REDACTED]
24 May 1977